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## THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE.

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### THE BIBLE STUDENTS' READING GUILD.

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*Local Chapters.*—The following topics for Chapter-meetings during March are suggested. Care should be taken to select for each meeting such subjects as will make a complete and rounded programme, that is, touching different sides of the subject. Not more than five topics and a map drill should be upon any one programme :

1. The teaching of Christ in regard to the spirit of prayer, and the matter of petitions.
2. A comparison of Jesus' teachings concerning prayer with the customs of the times in his and in other countries.
3. The teachings of Jesus in regard to the kingdom of God, (*a*) its nature and extent, (*b*) the conditions of entrance, (*c*) the time when it should be established, (*d*) his own relation to it, (*e*) the character of its members.
4. Evidences of the growth of the hatred of the Pharisees during the period of the Perea ministry.
5. The cost of discipleship.
6. The teachings of Christ concerning repentance.
7. The story of the raising of Lazarus with special reference to (*a*) the relation of Christ to this family, and his reasons for delaying his coming to their assistance, (*b*) the supreme exhibition of the divinity and humanity of Jesus (*c*) as bringing to a crisis the hostility of the Jews.
8. Reading of Browning's "An Epistle."
9. The action of the Council.
10. The specific statements of Jesus concerning the manner and purpose of his approaching death and his attitude in view of it.
11. Zaccheus the Publican,
12. The acts of Jesus in Jericho.
13. A study of the parable of the Minæ with special reference to its teaching.
14. The teaching of Jesus concerning the possession of material wealth as a possible spiritual barrier.
15. A sketch of the visit of Jesus to the home of Lazarus in Bethany when on his way to Jerusalem, based on the scriptural narrative and our knowledge of the times.
16. The sayings of Jesus concerning Moses and the Law.
17. The attitude of Jesus toward childhood.

18. The anticipations of the disciples of Jesus concerning his future earthly life.
19. The methods of teaching employed by Jesus with special emphasis upon the parabolic method.
20. Jesus calls himself a prophet. Discuss his prophetic work.

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#### GENERAL INSTITUTE NOTES.

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The annual meeting of the directors of the Institute was held in New York City, February 9, 1895. The following members of the board were present: Rev. Arthur Brooks, D.D., Professor Francis Brown, D.D., Professor Edward L. Curtis, Ph.D., Mr. Cleveland H. Dodge, Rev. W. H. P. Faunce, D.D., and the Principal, William R. Harper. Owing to the severity of the storm and the stoppage of travel, members living at a distance from New York City were unable to be present.

The Principal's report of the work for the year was presented, as also the financial report. Those directors whose terms had expired were reëlected, and three new directors whose names will be announced later were added to the present number. Professor F. K. Sanders was elected secretary of the board in place of President George S. Burroughs, whose resignation as secretary was presented, but who keeps his connection with the board, and remains a member of the executive committee which consists of five members of the board residing in or near Chicago. This committee was empowered to act for the board when necessary and to have special oversight of the financial needs of the Institute during the interim between the annual meetings.

The Principal, President William R. Harper, the Vice-Principal, Professor F. K. Sanders, and the Executive Secretary, Miss G. L. Chamberlin, were reappointed for the ensuing year, and the Principal's appointment of Rev. H. L. Willett as Field Secretary for one year from October 1, 1894, was confirmed.

Much interest was manifested in the popular work upon which the Principal made his first report. The members of the board were unanimous in their resolution to continue all the lines of work in which the Institute is engaged and to enlarge each department as rapidly as financial limitations would admit.

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A local institute was held in Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, February 8, 9, 10. Six lectures on the Times of Jesus, discussing the Heroic Period of Jewish History, the Herods and the Romans, the Home Life of the Jews, the Industrial Life of the Jews, the Scribes and Pharisees, and Jesus in the Light of His Times, were given by Professor Shailer Mathews of the University of Chicago. Both students and faculty enjoyed the occasion, and look forward to another institute with a more extensive programme next year.

An institute was also held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor Union. Three lectures upon Old Testament subjects were given by the Rev. H. L. Willett. At the close of the institute a most urgent invitation was extended Mr. Willett to return in April and deliver a second series before the same body.

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The following is the content of the programme of an institute held in The University of Chicago under the auspices of the Christian Union, March 1, 2, 3:

Four lectures, by Professor Shailer Mathews, on the Times of Jesus: (*a*) The Heroic Period of Jewish History, (*b*) The Herods and the Romans, (*c*) The Industrial Life of the Jews, (*d*) The Home Life of the Jews. Two lectures, by Professor Ernest D. Burton, on the Relation of Jesus' Teaching to the Ideas of His Times: (*a*) Practical and Ethical, (*b*) Doctrinal and Theological Questions. Two lectures by Professor W. W. White: (*a*) The Testimony of the Gospel by John to Jesus Christ, (*b*) The Development of Faith and Unbelief as shown by John's Gospel. A Question Box was conducted by President Harper and Professor Burton on the subject: The Effect of the Results of the Higher Criticism upon the Christian Belief.

A lecture upon the Literary Study of the Bible, illustrated by a book study, was given by Professor Richard G. Moulton, and also an address by President Harper upon the question: "Why should a College Student Study the Bible?"

The Sunday morning session was accompanied by a devotional service.